Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Text

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PAGE 01 THE HA 01064 011059Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00
PA-02 USIA-15 SP-02 H-02 HA-05 /049 W
----------073213 011557Z /53
R 011000Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2144

UNCLAS THE HAGUE 1064

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINR, PINS, NL
SUBJ: DUTCH COURT ORDERS JOURNALISTS TO DISCLOSE SOURCE

1. TWO DUTCH EDITORS IN MAY 1976 DISCLOSED THAT THE NAME OF SECOND CHAMBER MEMBER OF THE PACIFIST-SOCIALIST PART (PSP) BRAM VAN DER LEK APPEARED ON A LIST OF DUTCH POLITICIANS WORKING FOR THE SOVIET INTELLIGENCE SERVICE KGB. VAN DER LEK STRONGLY DENIED THESE ALLEGATIONS AND STARTED LEGAL PROCEEDINGS AGAINST THE TWO JOURNALISTS WHEN THEY REFUSED TO DISCLOSE THE SOURCE OF THEIR INFORMATION.

2. ON FEBRUARY 24, 1978, THE APPEALS COURT ORDERED THE EDITORS TO REVEAL THEIR SOURCES WITHIN 10 DAYS. THEY MUST PAY 100 GUILDERS (ABOUT 40 DOLLARS) DAMAGE FOR EVERY DAY THEY FAIL TO NAME THEIR SOURCES. BOTH HAVE SAID THAT THEY WILL NOT COMPLY AND WILL APPEAL THE DECISION.

3. THE DUTCH JOURNALISTS UNION NVJ IS BACKING THE APPEAL, VIEWING IT AS A TEST CASE OF THE RIGHT OF JOURNALISTS TO PROTECT THE CONFIDENTIALITY OF SOURCES.

4. COMMENT: THOUGH THE INITIAL DISCLOSURE IN 1976 CAUSED A FLURRY, THE CASE IS PRESENTLY ATTRACTING LITTLE INTEREST. VAN DER LEK LOST HIS SEAT IN THE LAST ELECTIONS, BUT HE REMAINS POLITICALLY ACTIVE. NEVERTHELESS, BOTH THE SUBSTANCE OF THE
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CHARGE AS WELL AS THE PRINCIPLE INVOLVED CONTINUE TO HAVE POLITICAL POTENTIAL.
MCCLOSKEY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INFORMATION SECURITY, COURTS, JOURNALISTS, ALLEGATIONS, ESPIONAGE AGENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
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Subject: DUTCH COURT ORDERS JOURNALISTS TO DISCLOSE SOURCE
TAGS: PINR, PINS, NL, (VAN DER LEK, BRAM)
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